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Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
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Full validity of the Charter of the United Nations on its seventieth anniversary

Document submitted by the delegation of Cuba

Cuba wishes to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations by reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of that instrument.

In 1945, inspired by "we the peoples", the Charter laid the foundation for a new system of relations among States and expressed the noble aspirations of progress, freedom and justice for all of the Earth's inhabitants.

The primary goal, set out in its opening paragraph, was "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

To achieve those aims, it established an Organization whose purposes were to maintain peace, develop friendship among nations, achieve international cooperation and serve as a centre for harmonizing actions to attain those ends.

The Organization was to be "based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members" and on other principles, such as the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the non-threat or use of force and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. It also promised to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Seventy years later, those noble goals remain a mirage for the vast majority of the world's people.

We live at a time when the survival of the human species is under threat and a stubborn insistence on rejecting international law and ignoring the United Nations still persists in some States. But we cannot give up striving for a better world.

We will continue to work tirelessly for the legitimate right of all peoples to a world without hunger or poverty and with health, education and dignity guaranteed

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to all; a world free of oppression and discrimination, without war, economic embargoes or exploitation of the weak.

No reform of the United Nations can redefine the principles of the Charter or undermine their implementation. Under no circumstances can we allow these principles to be challenged and reinterpreted to serve narrow political interests.

In this context, Cuba reaffirms the importance of the Special Committee on the Charter, which was established by General Assembly resolution 3349 (XXIX). It is this Committee that has the momentous responsibility of introducing any amendments to the Charter that are proposed with a view to ensuring the more effective functioning of the United Nations and enhancing its ability to achieve its purposes.

Cuba will continue to contribute as far as possible to the work of the Special Committee and to efforts to bring the ideals of the Charter to fruition.